

January 2008

## Working Together Gets The Job Done

By Rick Nelson, General Manager

It was an exciting day on December 13th, as residents of the Mullen area gathered at the Lariat Gym to dedicate an early weather alert warning system installed on Custer District's tower south of town. The event was a culmination of many years of persistence working with USDA on a grant to purchase a transmitter for use by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather service. The transmitter began broadcasting in test mode December 12th.



The grant process started back in 2001 when Custer pursued installing a weather transmitter on a tower south of Mullen. This first attempt was not successful. A second attempt was made in 2004 when Custer installed a new tower south of Mullen for the District's own communications equipment. This provided an opportunity to submit the grant, however, funding was not received until early in 2007.

"Making this transmitter a reality was truly a cooperative effort of the public and private sectors," said Debra Blondin, Weather Service North Platte Office, "We at the North Platte forecast office are grateful to all those who helped make it a reality. Area residents now have a direct line of communication from our office through which they can get the latest forecast and warn-

ings of weather events that could impact their safety and well being. A partnership between the National Weather Service out of North Platte, USDA rural Development and Custer Public Power District has provided one of the last spots in Nebraska to have the weather alert system installed."

Fire Chief Dan Daly thanked Custer District for their commitment to making Mullen a safer community by improving overall communication systems for their emergency service

personnel.

Our thanks to the community, government representatives, and media from Broken Bow and North Platte for their support in making the dedication a great event. With the assistance of a skilled driver, Kendra Potter, KNOP News 2 from North Platte, braved the weather making a trip to the tower site for footage shown later that evening on KNOP News 2. Ellen Mortensen, Chief managing editor wrote a great article about the project. Complementing the article were photos and interviews with the audience, taken by Deb McCaslin, Chief publisher.

Together we have the power to make a difference.

# Mullen NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio Dedication



Pictured above from left to right: Brian Hirsch, Andre Boening, and Rick Nelson



Winners of a weather radio were: Tony Corbin, Jodi Jacobs, Jeff Hoelsing, and John Frazey

## NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio Dedication

A new NOAA Weather Radio Transmitter has been installed near Mullen, Nebraska. This transmitter operates on a frequency of 162.425 megahertz and will alert for hazardous watches and warnings for Cherry, Grant, Hooker, McPherson, and Thomas counties. Transmission is now running continuously 24 hours a day and reaches a 40-45 miles radius. By going to the website it is possible for residents to sign up for text messaging.

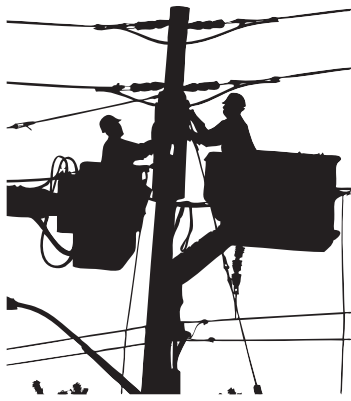
USDA Rural Development Office representative Andre Boening, explained, "Deaths during storms in the '90's could have been prevented in rural areas had a weather radio transmitter been available. The federal government was determined not to let that happen again, which is how the Department of Agriculture got involved in the grant program."

Brian Hirsch, Meteorologist in Charge at the North Platte said, "This project is an excellent example of how important it is to be persistent when working with the government. The grant was for \$60,000, which improves safety in this community. The winter storms last December and January had a lead-time of 20 hours. That is a significant amount of time, but when we come to severe thunderstorms and tornadoes minutes count, and a weather radio in Mullen's area will provide immediate broadcasts of those warnings. The minute the warning goes off, the radio wakes up and sends an alert."

Approximately 60 members of the community were in attendance for the dedication as well as media. Four lucky people won a weather radio during a raffle at the end of the dedication, donated by Custer Public Power. Deb McCaslin, editor of the Custer County Chief donated her radio for use at the Lariat Gym.

## Easter is Early This Year

We hope you are enjoying your 2008 Custer PPD calendar. Unfortunately, a few calendars got mailed that weren't perfect. The printers collating machine developed a little glitch, dropping some pages and putting others with the wrong months. Thanks to customers Gail Mattox and Alice Chalupa from the Sargent area for making us aware of the mishap. Alice said, "I knew something was wrong when I saw St. Patrick's Day in January. It's true that Easter is celebrated early this year, but not in January." We are sorry for the mishap. If you received a calendar with Easter in January, call or stop by the office and we will replace it.



Attention High School Seniors in the Custer Public Power District Area

Custer Public Power District is Seeking Applicants for the

### **CPPD Utility Line Scholarship**

This Scholarship is for 1 or 2 Year Full Tuition

Requirements for the Scholarship:

- High School Graduate in Custer Power Service Area

**Deadline for submitting your application is February 1, 2008**

Application forms may be requested from your guidance counselor or Custer Public Power

The Custer Public Power District Scholarship Fund is administered by:

Submit completed form to:

Carol Fritzler  
PO Box 10, Broken Bow NE, 68822  
(308) 872-2451



## **Historic Barn Relocated for a New Look**



Photo by Terri Licking

The O. K. Luther barn was moved on Tuesday, December 4, from the west edge of Broken Bow to the east edge of town. Don Nelson, Custer District foreman, was on hand as a line was lifted to allow the barn to move to its new location. The 100-year-old landmark will be refurbished and open the spring of 2008 as the new Interpretive Center for the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway. The purpose of the interpretive center will be to highlight towns and points of interest along the byway, which stretches 272 miles from Grand Island to Alliance.

# Three-Bean Holiday Chili

**Prep Time:** 15 min  
**Start to Finish:** 40 min  
**Makes:** 6 servings

1 can (28 oz) Progresso® diced tomatoes, undrained  
1 can (19 oz) Progresso® red kidney beans, drained  
1 can (15 oz) Progresso® chick peas (garbanzo beans), drained  
1 can (15 to 16 ounces) butter beans, drained  
1 can (15 ounces) tomato sauce  
3 small red, orange or yellow bell peppers, cut into 1-inch pieces  
1 Anaheim or jalapeño chili, seeded and chopped  
1 to 2 tablespoons chili powder  
2 teaspoons ground cumin  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
1/2 cup sour cream  
3 tablespoons salsa  
Chopped fresh cilantro, if desired

1. Mix all ingredients except sour cream, salsa and cilantro in 4-quart Dutch oven. Heat to boiling, breaking up tomatoes; reduce heat. Cover and simmer 15 to 20 minutes or until bell peppers are tender.

2. Mix sour cream and salsa in small bowl. Serve chili with sour cream mixture. Sprinkle with cilantro.

## Nutrition Information (Per Serving)

Calories 380 (Calories from Fat 60)  
Total Fat 7g (Saturated Fat 2 1/2g,  
Trans Fat 0g)  
Cholesterol 15mg  
Sodium 1000mg  
Total Carbohydrate 61g  
(Dietary Fiber 16g, Sugars 10g)  
Protein 20g Percent Daily Value  
Vitamin A 40%;  
Vitamin C 80%;  
Calcium 15%;  
Iron 45% Exchanges:



**We forgot to tell you** - last month's 7 layer bean dip makes 8 servings. The nutrition facts are based on 1/8 of the recipe.



## CUSTER CURRENTS

### Newsletter of the CUSTER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Broken Bow, NE - Phone 872-2451  
[www.custerpower.com](http://www.custerpower.com)

Serving Custer, Loup, Blaine, Thomas,  
Hooker, McPherson, Logan and parts of  
Sherman, Garfield, Brown, Cherry,  
Lincoln, and Dawson Counties

### Officers & Directors

Wayne V. Licking, Thedford.....President  
Brad Bartak, Merna.....Vice President  
Linda Abel, North Platte.....Secretary  
Brad Howard, Litchfield.....Treasurer  
Margaret Bradley, Brewster.....Asst. Treasurer  
John Blakeman, Merna.....Director  
Lloyd Ramsey, Broken Bow.....Director

### Staff

Rick Nelson.....General Manager  
Tom Knott.....Director of Operations  
Cheryl Taylor.....Director of Finance and  
Administration

### Board Meetings

The regular monthly meeting of the Custer Public Power District Board of Directors is on the last Thursday of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the main office in Broken Bow on Hwy. 2.

An agenda for each regular meeting of the board is available for public inspection during business hours.

In the event of matters of an emergency nature or conflicts with other meeting dates, the Board of Directors will set changes. Any change in the monthly meeting date will be posted in the legal notice at the main headquarters building at Broken Bow and at each of the District's area service centers located in Callaway, Sargent, Stapleton and Thedford, Nebraska.